

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 698
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6910

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BE, CG
SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN-BELGIAN RELATIONS: MOBUTU COOLS OFF

REF KINSHASA 6821

1. SINCE POSTPONEMENT OF GOZ'S FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM (REFTEL), THERE HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS THAT MOBUTU WILL NOT GO THAT FAR. HE TOLD FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON JULY 4 THAT "EVERYONE" HAS ADVISED HIM AGAINST SUCH EXTREME ACTION, AND ON SAME DAY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME FLATLY THAT BREAK WILL NOT OCCUR. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IS REASONABLY CONFIDENT STORM WILL PASS, ALTHOUGH HE STILL ANTICIPATES MOBUTU MAY TAKE SOME MORE LIMITED ACTION AGAINST BELGIUM TO PROVE HIS POINT AND MAINTAIN HIS CREDIBILITY.

2. THE BELGIANS HERE BELIEVE THAT SIMONET'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN RABAT, PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
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PRESS, HAVE HAD A CALMING EFFECT ON MOBUTU. KING HASSAN'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION (I.E., A PHONE CALL TO MOBUTU IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY URGED HIM TO KEEP HIS COOL) IS CONSIDERED HERE AS HAVING BEEN PARTICULARLY INSTRUMENTAL IN DISSUADING MOBUTU FROM MOVING RASHLY. WE ARE INFORMED THAT HASSAN IS FOLLOWING UP BY SENDING A PERSONAL EMISSARY TO TALK FURTHER WITH MOBUTU. WHILE THE JULY 6-8 POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING MAY YET RESULT IN SOME KIND

OF ACTION AGAINST BELGIAN INTERESTS, BARRING NEW PROVOCATIONS IN
BRUSSELS IT SEEMS FAIRLY CERTAIN THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS WILL PASS.
CUTLER

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NNN

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